MARVEL

ASTONISHING X-MEN® #1

SOULE
CHEUNG
MORALES

ISANOVE
BEREDO

11-MMXVII
JASON!

TWO MOMENTS ARE COMMON TO THE LIFE OF EVERY PSYCHIC.

FIRST, THE REALIZATION, USUALLY IN CHILDHOOD, THAT THE VOICES ECHOING, RAGING, ***SHOUTING*** THROUGH THEIR HEADS ARE ***OTHER PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.***

AND THE SECOND...

...WHEN THEY UNDERSTAND THAT ***NO ONE ELSE CAN HEAR THEM.***

NNNNNGH

A CHILD BLIND FROM BIRTH EXPERIENCES SOMETHING SIMILAR, WHEN THEY LEARN THAT NEARLY EVERY OTHER LIVING BEING IN THE WORLD POSSESSES A SENSE THEY DO NOT: SIGHT.

A TRAGEDY, UNDER-OBSERVED AND PROFOUND. A GREAT REASSESSMENT OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE WORLD.

BUT FOR A PSYCHIC, THIS MOMENT IS DIFFERENT.

IN THAT INSTANT, THEY REALIZE ONE SIMPLE THING: EVERYONE ***ELSE*** IS BLIND.

TO PSYCHICS, THE WORLD IS ***OPEN.***

AAAAGH!

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES THEM.

THERE IS A ***WEIGHT*** TO THE WORLD'S THOUGHTS. THE MORE ***FEEBLE*** PSYCHICS ISOLATE THEMSELVES RATHER THAN FEEL IT.

THAT IS WHY, AT FIRST, NO ONE NOTICED THEY WERE DYING.

IN THEIR HERMIT CAVES...

...THEIR DESERTED ISLANDS...

...THEIR BOATS.

DYING, ONE BY ONE.

LONDON.

BUT THE LONELY ONES ARE ***WEAK***--AND AFTER ENOUGH FAILURES, IT IS CLEAR THERE WILL BE NO SUCCESS ABSENT ***STRONGER*** MEAT.

BETSY BRADDOCK. PSYLOCKE. AS POWERFUL AS ANY PSYCHIC ON THE PLANET.

A GOOD SUBJECT.

WHAT?

BUT OF COURSE, ATTACKING PSYLOCKE WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED.

SHE HAS CHOSEN TO ***ENGAGE*** WITH THE WORLD.

ARRRGH!

TO HELP--OR HURT--HOWEVER SHE CAN.

NNNNNGH

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES HER.

ACT I

ASTONISHING X-MEN

LIFE OF X
PART ONE

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THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

LUCAS BISHOP.

A SOLDIER. HIS ENEMY IS THE *FUTURE.*

I'VE GOT THE REST OF THE PAPERS FOR YOU, BISHOP. THE ASIAN WEEKLIES.

THANK YOU, DORA.

HE IS A *TIME-TRAVELER.* HE HAS SEEN A THOUSAND DOOMED FUTURES, A THOUSAND POISONED PATHS.

EACH BEGINS WITH A SINGLE SPARK, IGNORED UNTIL IT ERUPTS INTO A BLAZE THAT EATS THE WORLD. HE KNOWS THEM ALL. EVERY SPARK.

SO... I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, THEN?

YEAH. TOMORROW.

HE SPENDS HIS DAYS WATCHING, READING, LOOKING FOR SPARKS, TO STAMP THEM OUT BEFORE THEY GROW.

HE IS A SOLDIER, A SENTINEL AGAINST THE APOCALYPSE. HIS WAR CAN NEVER BE WON, AND HIS WAR CAN NEVER END.

THE FUTURE ALWAYS COMES.

SCOTLAND.

WARREN WORTHINGTON III.

THE ANGEL.

HE, LIKE BISHOP, IS SHAPED BY APOCALYPSE.

HE CARRIES THE END OF THE WORLD *INSIDE HIM,* A TERRIBLE POWER ALWAYS SEEKING TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY OF FIRE AND BLOOD.

AS LONG AS ANGEL REMAINS AT PEACE, THAT POWER IS HIS TO CONTROL AND USE.

BUT WHO AMONG US IS ALWAYS AT PEACE?

PARIS. THE LOUVRE.

LITTLE LUCK, EH?

GAMBIT.

JUST ONE GOOD ROLL. ALL I ASK, ME.

A CHARMING THIEF.

HE WAS BORN FOR THIS.

THOOM

BONJOUR, PARTNER.

TO MY HORROR, I NOTICE THAT YOU DO NOT APPEAR TO BE CARRYING ANYTHING PARTICULARLY *VALUABLE.*

FANTOMEX. SOMEWHAT LESS CHARMING. ALSO A THIEF.

HE WAS *MADE* FOR THIS. IN A LABORATORY.

BOTH THIEVES COULD CHOOSE ANOTHER PATH. THEY DO NOT.

I COULDN'T GET IT. THERE WAS A COMPLICATION. BOOCOO COMPLICATIONS.

VERY COMPLICATED.

MM. PERHAPS I CAN MAKE *BOTH* OUR LIVES LESS COMPLICATED BY SIMPLY *DROPPING YOU?*

THEY ARE THEIR OWN APOCALYPSE.

ABOVE THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

HOW LONG UNTIL WE GET BACK STATESIDE, ROGUE?

THREE HOURS OR SO. WHY, YOU GOT BIG PLANS?

LOGAN. THIS ONE HAS ALREADY MET HIS APOCALYPSE, AND HE *SURVIVED.* HE AND HE ALONE.

LOGAN ALWAYS SURVIVES. HE IS METAL AND STONE. THE WORLD BREAKS AGAINST HIM.

YEAH, I GOT PLANS. I'M OLD AS DIRT, GIRL.

THREE WHOLE HOURS? I'M THINKING *NAP.*

YOU?

NO, LOGAN. NO PLANS.

AND ROGUE. EVEN STRONGER THAN LOGAN, BUT IF HE IS STONE, SHE IS WATER. SHE CHANGES *CONSTANTLY,* WITH EVERYONE SHE TOUCHES.

I KNOW BETTER.

IT IS A CONFUSING WAY TO LIVE.

IN HER DESPERATION, PSYLOCKE CALLS OUT TO ANYONE WHO CAN HELP HER.

HER BUTTERFLIES FIND THOSE WHO ARE NEAR.

PERHAPS NOT THE *BEST* X-MEN TO FACE THE HORRORS TO COME...

...BUT THE ONES WHO ARE CALLED.

POOR BETSY BRADDOCK. SO STRONG, SO ESSENTIALLY GOOD, SO *INDOMITABLE.*

HELLLLP ME.

AND HERE, *DOMINATED,* THE FOCUSED TOTALITY OF HER PSYCHIC POWERS TURNED TOWARD A PURPOSE NOT HER OWN.

SET MEEEE...

NO, NO, NOT AGAIN, THE PEOPLE CRY, AS THEIR CITY IS TORN APART AND POISON DRIPS INTO THEIR MINDS.

NOT EVERYONE IS AFFECTED. MANY COULD FLEE--MOST DO NOT. THEY STAY TO WATCH.

...FREEEEEEEE...

DISASTER IS BEAUTIFUL.

STOP SHOOTING, YOU BASTARDS! THERE'S A PERSON IN THAT THING.

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT: THIS IS RESTRICTED AIRSPACE--IF YOU CONTINUE TO APPROACH, YOU WILL BE FIRED UPON.

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY, YOU--

LOGAN! ENOUGH. A GIANT MONSTER'S EATIN' THEIR CITY. THEY GOT A RIGHT TO BE *TESTY.*

SO WE SHOULD *LET THEM MURDER PSYLOCKE?*

NO-- BUT GETTING INTO A FIREFIGHT OVER LONDON WON'T HELP MATTERS.

YOU GOT A *BETTER* IDEA?

ROGUE?

HNH.

ROGUE! WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT IS THAT THING?

DUNNO YET, LOGAN. BUT IT'S SENDING OUT SOME KIND OF... ***DEFENSE MECHANISM.*** THEY LOOK LIKE THEM PSYCHIC BLADES PSYLOCKE MANIFESTS.

GAH! THEY'RE ***SHARP.*** SHARP AS ANYTHING. THEY...THEY ***CUT*** ME!

*WAIT. YOUR SKIN'S TOO TOUGH. THOUGHT THAT WAS **IMPOSSIBLE.***

SO DID I!

BETSY, IT'S ROGUE. I'M HERE TO ***HELP.***

I'M GONNA ***TOUCH*** YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS--I'LL KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW, I'LL HAVE YOUR POWERS, AND YOU'LL TAKE A LITTLE REST.

JUST A ***NAP,*** SUGAH. NOTHING TO WORRY AB--

ROGUE! THOSE THINGS...THEY'RE COMIN' BACK AROUND!

AH, DAMN.

ROGUE!

ANGEL? WHERE DID YOU--

SSSK.

DON'T WORRY.

KRSSK

YOU ARE SAVED.

MY, MY, BETSY...WHAT ARE YOU *UP* TO?

YOU ASK ME, PSYLOCKE'S LIKE T'TAKE THAT WHOLE DAMN *BUILDING* DOWN.

MM. PERHAPS, *MON AMI.* QUITE A SPECTACLE.

SPECTACLE? THAT'S *COLD.* SHE NEEDS OUR HELP.

TIME WAS, SHE WAS YOUR *GAIENNE,* NO?

PSYLOCKE WAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A *CONSORT* TO ME, GAMBIT.

AND NOW SHE IS MUCH, MUCH LE--

KRRRRRRRK

ROGUE... *ROGUE!* TALK TO ME, RIVER RAT!

KTHOOM

HNH.

KEEP RUNNIN' DOWN THERE! DON'T LOOK BACK!

I'M COMIN'.

THESE THINGS SEEM TO BE A BIT ON THE... *IMPERVIOUS* SIDE...

CLIPS.

ER... WHAT?

CLIPS! THROW ME SOME ***BULLETS,*** FOOL!

DID YOU SEE THAT?

FELL RIGHT OUT OF THE BLEEDIN' SKY!

SIR, ARE YOU ALL R--

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME, YOU IDIOTS?

HERE.

I SAID KEEP RUNNIN'!

TRY THESE.

HA! PARFAIT.

ABSOLUMENT PARFAIT.

YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. FOCUS ON ME, NOT THE IDIOTS.

KRRCK

I'M *RIGHT* HERE.

SNIKT

I'M *ALWAYS* HERE.

KZZK

KZZK

WHAT THE--?

HEY. I'M BISHOP. YOU'RE THE LOGAN WHO KILLED ALL THE X-MEN IN YOUR HOME DIMENSION, RIGHT?

YEAH.

YOU GONNA KILL ALL THE X-MEN HERE, TOO?

DON'T WANT TO.

PROBABLY WON'T.

GUESS WE'LL SEE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE? I GOT SOME SORT OF *PSYCHIC CALL* FROM PSYLOCKE, BUT I DON'T--

GAH!

ANGEL! WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

ROGUE NEEDS YOU.

ROGUE. WHAT CAN I DO?

PSYLOCKE'S BEEN *INFECTED* WITH SOMETHING. PSYCHIC ENERGY. I CAN DRAW IT OFF, BUT THEN IT'D JUST BE IN *ME.*

I GET IT--WOULDN'T BE SOLVING THE PROBLEM. JUST *MOVING* IT.

YEAH, BUT IF I CAN GIVE IT TO *YOU*...WOULD THAT WORK? COULD YOU GET RID OF IT?

MM. PSYCHIC ENERGY'S SAME AS ANY OTHER. I CAN TURN IT INTO SOMETHING SAFE, SEND IT BACK OUT.

YOU *SURE?* THIS SEEMS LIKE A LOTTA--

NO, I'M NOT. BUT UNLESS YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA, LET'S GET ON WITH IT.

YOU GOT IT.

NYEEEARGH!

KRACK

COME ON, ANNA MARIE... *DO* THIS. GET THIS CRAP *GONE!*

WE HAVE *WON!* OF *COURSE* WE HAVE WON!

THE FIGHT, MAYBE. YOU STILL GON' LOSE, THOUGH.

COME AGAIN?

YOUR *HANDS,* GENIUS. THOSE BULLETS GON' EXPLODE IN FIVE SECONDS, TOPS.

BISHOP! YOU READY? I NEED THIS STUFF *OUT* OF ME!

YEAH-- BUT I NEED A *CONNECTION.* PSYCHIC ENERGY'S TOUGH. SOMETHING *CLOSE.*

CLOSE... ALL RIGHT.

BUT DON'T GET ANY IDEAS, NOW.

MMF!

SSSSKKKKKK

FWWSSSSH

YOU ALL RIGHT, BISHOP? I'M SORRY, I JUST... WE DIDN'T HAVE *TIME*, AND--

NAH. I'M OKAY. JUST... DON'T USUALLY FEEL LIKE I GOT KICKED IN THE HEAD AFTER SOMEONE *KISSES* ME.

YEAH, I KNOW. I'M A REAL CATCH.

WELL, THIS DAY HAS BEEN MOST *EMPHATICALLY* SAVED, NO?

REMIND ME WHAT YOU DID AGAIN?

WELL, PERHAPS NOT AS MUCH AS SOME.

BUT PROBABLY MORE THAN *MOST.*

KEEP IT UP, FANTOMEX.

I ALWAYS DO. ASK ANYONE.

YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'LL BE OKAY. JUST GLAD BISHOP WAS HERE. DON'T KNOW HOW I WOULD HAVE FIXED THIS WITHOUT HIM.

SEE YOU PICKED UP A BAD CASE O' GAMBIT. WHERE'D YOU FIND *HIM?*

WELL, *THAT'S* A FINE HELLO TO THE *LOVE OF YOUR LIFE.*

STILL, REMY?

ALWAYS, *CHÈRE.*

FOUND GAMBIT ON THE STREET. FANTOMEX TOO. PSYLOCKE SENT OUT A CALL TO THEM, JUST LIKE US.

THEY AREN'T THE ONLY ONES, EITHER.

GOT MYSELF A HAIRBALL.

HELLO, ALL.

SORRY TO BE LATE, BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE HANDLED THINGS WELL ENOUGH.

I'M... SURPRISED YOU'RE HERE, HENRY. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED DURING THE INHUMAN WAR, I THOUGHT YOU'D STEPPED AWAY FROM US.

WELL, YES, BUT I RECEIVED PSYLOCKE'S DISTRESS CALL, AND WHAT WAS I TO DO, IGNORE IT?

I'M A BEAST, BUT I'M NOT A *BEAST.*

SH-SHUT UP. STOP...*BANTERING.* THERE'S NO *TIME.*

ALL OF THIS...WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO ME. IT WAS THE *SPIDER.*

AMAHL FAROUK.

IT'S THE *SHADOW KING,* AND HE WANTS US ALL.

ARE YOU *SURE*, BETSY? I THOUGHT FAROUK WAS *DEAD.*

I USED TO KEEP THE SHADOW KING IMPRISONED IN MY *MIND*, ROGUE. I KNOW WHAT HE FEELS LIKE.

HE'S GOING AFTER *PSYCHICS*, BUILDING A *WEB.* HE WANTS TO *USE* US TO FORCE HIS WAY OUT OF THE ASTRAL PLANE AND BACK INTO THIS WORLD.

HE *HAD* ME. I COULDN'T EVEN FIGHT IT...HE *HAD* ME. I'VE NEVER *FELT* HIM SO STRONG.

HE WAS LIKE A WAVE OF *FILTH.* I WAS *DROWNING IN SEWAGE.*

HE WANTS TO FILL THE WORLD WITH *POISON* AND WATCH US ROT FROM THE *INSIDE OUT.*

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, BETSY. TAKE HOPE. WE'RE HERE.

NO, WARREN! DON'T YOU SEE?

ALL OF THIS WOULD JUST HAVE BEEN THE *START* IF YOU HADN'T SAVED ME. AND IF HE TOOK *ME*, HE CAN GET OTHERS.

JEAN, THE CUCKOOS, QUENTIN, *EMMA FROST.* ANY *ONE* OF THEM IS LIKE A PSYCHIC *NUKE*, AND HE'S GOING AFTER THEM *RIGHT NOW.*

I SAW WHAT HE'S PLANNING. IF HE GETS ANY OF THEM...IF HE GETS OUT...

YES, PSYLOCKE. DIRE STRAITS INDEED. BUT WHAT DO YOU WANT TO *DO* ABOUT IT?

YOU NEED TO STOP HIM *RIGHT NOW*, BEAST.

I CAN SEND YOU TO HIS REALM--THE ASTRAL PLANE. TURN THE SHADOW KING BACK. *KILL* HIM, IF YOU CAN.

IF HE TAKES ANOTHER PSYCHIC AT MY POWER LEVEL, EVEN *CLOSE* TO IT... EVERY PERSON ON EARTH WILL CHOKE ON THEIR OWN *DESPAIR*.

I'LL GO. I'VE SPENT TIME ON THE ASTRAL PLANE BEFORE. I CAN HANDLE IT.

ME TOO.

AND WHAT KIND OF MAN WOULD I BE TO LET YOU GO ALONE, *BELLE*? YOU SEND ME AS WELL, PSYLOCKE.

SHOULD WE FIND SOMEWHERE *PRIVATE* FOR THIS, BETSY? WE'VE ATTRACTED SOME ATTENTION.

WE DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO MOVE, WARREN. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME FOR THIS *CONVERSATION*.

DON'T YOU *GET IT?* THE GUILLOTINE IS *FALLING*. THE NUKES ARE *IN THE AIR*. FAROUK HAS TO BE STOPPED *NOW*.

THEN I'LL STAY HERE. I CAN KEEP YOU SAFE. THE ASTRAL PLANE IS A FLUID PLACE, AND THESE DAYS FLUIDITY IS NOT MY FRIEND.

IF I'M TO KEEP CONTROL OVER THE BLUE GUY... THEN I NEED TO STAY IN A PLACE WHERE I KNOW WHO I AM.

WELL, *THIS* BLUE GUY KNOWS EXACTLY WHO HE IS.

I'LL JOIN YOU ON THIS JOURNEY, FRIENDS.

AS WILL I.

WHY ARE YOU EVEN *HERE,* JEAN-PHILLIPE? THERE'S NO WAY I CALLED *YOU* FOR HELP.

YOU DID NOT, MY DEAR, AND AFTER OUR CHEQUERED PAST I DOUBT I WOULD HAVE COME IF YOU HAD. I AM HERE...

...BECAUSE YOU CALLED *HIM.* MY BEST FRIEND IN *ALL THE WORLD.*

AT LEAST UNTIL HE PAYS ME WHAT HE OWES ME. UNTIL THEN, I WOULD DO *ANYTHING* TO PROTECT HIM.

FANTOMEX, WHY YOU AIRIN' THIS OUT? THIS BUSINESS IS *BETWEEN US.*

EXACTLY! OUR FRIENDS MUST KNOW THAT I AM WITH YOU FOR *BUSINESS* REASONS, NOT PERSONAL.

MY REPUTATION, YOU UNDERSTAND. I WOULD NOT WANT THEM TO THINK I SPEND TIME WITH A *COMMON THIEF.*

YOU ARE ALSO A THIEF, FANTOMEX.

YES...BUT AN *UNCOMMON* ONE. FOR INSTANCE, MY ILLUSIONS. WHAT POWER COULD BE MORE USEFUL ON THE *ASTRAL PLANE,* AN ENTIRE *DIMENSION* OF ILLUSION?

YOU ARE A *LIAR.* I WOULDN'T TRUST YOU TO WATER MY *PLANTS,* MUCH LESS *SAVE THE WORLD.*

LISTEN, *MADEMOISELLE.* UNTIL GAMBIT SQUARES HIS DEBT, I DO NOT LEAVE HIS SIDE.

AND THINK ON THIS: IF YOU SEND ME TO THE ASTRAL PLANE, YOU WON'T HAVE TO HEAR ME *TALK.*

FINE. YOU CAN GO.

MERCI.

I'LL STAY HERE, HELP YOU KEEP PSYLOCKE AND THE OTHERS SAFE.

NOT THAT I DON'T APPRECIATE IT, BISHOP--BUT I'M NOT SURE THIS WILL END UP IN A *SHOOTOUT.*

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. THE SHADOW KING *POSSESSES* PEOPLE. GOING TO THE ASTRAL PLANE'S LIKE LAYING YOURSELF OUT ON A *BUFFET TABLE* FOR HIM. THAT'S HIS *HOUSE.*

SOME OF THESE GUYS WILL END UP *TAKEN.* THEY'LL WAKE UP HERE AS HIS VESSELS, READY TO KILL. IT'S JUST INEVITABLE.

I KNOW ARCHANGEL'S A HEAVY HITTER, WARREN, BUT TWO OF US HERE WILL BE BETTER THAN ONE.

HM. YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT--ESPECIALLY SINCE I NO LONGER ALLOW THE ARCHANGEL TO FIGHT. HE'S...SEMI-RETIRED.

YOU WON'T...MY GOD, WARREN. *WHY?*

BECAUSE THAT THING WANTS TO EAT THE WORLD. IT ALWAYS WILL, AND EVERY TIME IT TASTES BLOOD IT GETS CLOSER TO BEING ABLE TO DO IT.

BUT HOW THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO PROTECT PSYLOCKE? PROTECT *ANYONE?*

HOW ABOUT THIS, LUCAS--YOU SAVE PEOPLE YOUR WAY...

...AND I'LL SAVE THEM MINE.

I'M SENDING YOU TO THE ASTRAL PLANE NOW. BE READY.

THE SHADOW KING WON'T WAIT TO ATTACK, AND HE CAN HIT YOU WITH ***ANYTHING.***

ANYTHING YOU HATE, ANYTHING YOU LOVE, ANYTHING YOU ***FEAR***--THESE ARE HIS WEAPONS.

FIND HIM, DEFEAT HIM QUICKLY. THE LONGER YOU STAY, THE MORE HE'LL KNOW ABOUT YOU, AND THE WORSE IT WILL GET.

YOUR ***WILL*** IS YOUR ARMOR, YOUR ***WILL*** IS YOUR BLADE.

ANYTHING YOU HATE, ANYTHING YOU LOVE, ANYTHING YOU FEAR--THESE ARE YOUR WEAPONS.

I'M SENDING YOU NOW. BE READY.

THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE IN THE SHADOW KING'S REALM...

"...HE WILL KNOW."

OH, MY.

OH, MY.

THE X-MEN ARE *COMING*. THEY'RE GOING TO TRY TO SAVE THE *WORLD*.

IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR. WHAT WE'VE *TALKED* ABOUT.

MY PLANS WILL REQUIRE A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT, BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT. IT WILL BE *WORTH IT*.

THESE POOR HEROES THINK THEY'RE READY-- WHAT'S ANOTHER APOCALYPSE TO THEM, MORE OR LESS?

BUT THEY'VE FORGOTTEN THE SIMPLEST THING. WHAT ANY PSYCHIC COULD TELL THEM.

ON THE ASTRAL PLANE, THE APOCALYPSE ISN'T A WAR, OR MELTING ICE CAPS, OR A STRAY COMET. NOTHING LIKE THAT.

IN THIS REALM...

...THE APOCALYPSE IS *SECRETS*.

YES, AMAHL.

I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

HOUSE OF X

This month we have something really special debuting. That's right, the return of ASTONISHING X-MEN--this time written by the extraordinary Charles Soule with an oversized first issue illustrated by the incredibly talented Jim Cheung.

Why ASTONISHING and why now? Charles had a pitch for a very ambitious X-Men story that we just couldn't turn down. But where would it go? We already had two flagship titles with BLUE and GOLD. Enter ASTONISHING X-MEN, a maxi-series that gives Charles the room to tell this huge story that will indeed change the landscape of the X-Men's world.

This first issue takes fan-favorites such as Psylocke, Rogue, Gambit, Fantomex, Archangel and Old Man Logan to the Astral Plane where some popular corners of the X-Men's world will be visited. Over the course of the series, major players will be revealed along with some shocking surprises. You're not going to believe what comes out of this. Each issue is drawn by a top-industry artist, with Mike Deodato Jr. next up to bat with one of the strangest X-Men stories ever told!

So while I know that we have some amazing X-Men books already on the stands, treat yourself to the first issue of this book. You won't be disappointed. Issue one of ASTONISHING X-MEN is on sale NOW!

X-MEN GOLD:

By Marc Guggenheim and R.B. Silva. Kitty Pryde takes charge and leads a new team into a heroic age!
Issue #9!

X-MEN BLUE:

By Cullen Bunn and Cory Smith. The time-displaced original five join their greatest enemy, Magneto. Evil mutants, you're toast!
Issue #8!
SECRET EMPIRE tie-in

WEAPON X:

By Greg Pak and Greg Land. The Weapon X program is back, but this time they are building weapons of mutant destruction. Old Man Logan, Sabretooth and a team of stealthy killers take the bloody battle back to them.
Issue #5 on sale now!

ALL-NEW WOLVERINE:

By Tom Taylor and Leonard Kirk. A virus from another world threatens to wipe out mankind. Kicking off an epic tale that will take Laura Kinney to the stars.
Issue #22 on sale now!

GENERATION X:

By Christina Strain and Amilcar Pinna. Jubilee and a band of mutant misfits in the new Xavier Institute. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING!
Issue #4 on sale now!

JEAN GREY:

By Dennis Hopeless and Victor Ibáñez. She's the leader of X-MEN BLUE, but what does she do in her spare time? What would you do if you had a premonition of the Phoenix Force returning?
Issue #4 on sale now!

CABLE:

By James Robinson and Carlos Pacheco. A new villain is traveling through time to assemble a doomsday weapon. Cable's most dangerous mission ever!
Issue #2 on sale now!

ICEMAN:

By Sina Grace and Alessandro Vitti. The coolest hero on the planet, Bobby Drake the elder, in super-hero solo adventures.
Issue #2 on sale now!

OLD MAN LOGAN:

By Ed Brisson and Mike Deodato Jr. The Maestro! Old Man Logan! Deodato! 'Nuff said!
Issue 26 on sale now!

ASTONISHING X-MEN:

By Charles Soule and a murderers' row of chart-topping and up-and-coming artists. Fan-favorite characters battle one of the X-Men's most dangerous foes!
Issue #2!

Make sure to let us know your thoughts. You can email us at officex@marvel.com (add "OKAY TO PRINT" in the subject line). And don't forget about #XMENMONDAY on Twitter, where I'll post some tidbit from one or more of the books and address your questions. I can't guarantee an answer for everybody, but I'll do my darndest!

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ZONE